Cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amend claims 1, 3 and 4 as follows:

1. (Amended) A developing sleeve for a magnetic brush developing unit, which rotates to carry a magnetic brush formed from developer consisting of carrier and toner while forming said magnetic brush on a ~~the~~ circumferential surface thereof, so as to develop an electrostatic latent image on a photosensitive drum with said toner in a developing area where said magnetic brush comes into contact with said photosensitive drum and a predetermined electric field is applied,

wherein said developing sleeve comprises a plurality of axially parallel grooves formed at a predetermined pitch in a ~~the~~ circumferential direction on the circumferential surface thereof, [each groove and each interfacing portion having a cross section gradually and gently curved in the circumferential direction, said interfacing portion being a portion between each groove and its adjacent circumferential surface area] said developing sleeve further comprising circumferential surface area portions having a center of curvature as a ~~the~~ center of said developing sleeve, said circumferential surface area portions alternating in a circumferential direction with said plurality of axially parallel grooves, wherein each of said plurality of axially parallel grooves has a substantially U-shaped or V-shaped cross section, said cross section comprising an angled portion and an open portion, each said open portion positioned radially outwardly along a ~~the~~ radius of said

developing sleeve from each said angled portion and each said open portion having a length in the circumferential direction of said developing sleeve less than a length in the circumferential direction of said developing sleeve of each of said respective circumferential surface area portions.

2. (Amended) A developing sleeve according to claim 1, wherein each of said grooves [is substantially formed in a V-shape with an arc-shaped bottom in section and said] comprises an interfacing portion between each groove and its adjacent circumferential surface area portion and has an arc-shaped cross section gradually and gently curving in the circumferential direction.

3. (Amended) A developing sleeve for a magnetic brush developing unit, which rotates to carry a magnetic brush formed from developer consisting of carrier and toner while forming said magnetic brush on a ~~the~~ circumferential surface thereof, so as to develop an electrostatic latent image on a photosensitive drum with said toner in a developing area where said magnetic brush comes into contact with said photosensitive drum and a predetermined electric field is applied, said photosensitive drum rotating at such a speed that the surface thereof moves slower than that of said developing sleeve,

wherein said developing sleeve comprises a plurality of axially parallel grooves formed at a predetermined pitch in a ~~the~~ circumferential direction on the circumferential surface thereof, said pitch being equal to or smaller than a ~~the~~ circumferential

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